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LAUNDERING RAYON GARMENTS

The directions for laundering garments made of rayon are similar to those for washing silks; Lukewarm water, (100°F.), suds made from a neutral soap, rinse waters of the same temperature as the suds to avoid sharp changes which increase shrinkage. In addition there are certain special precautions to observe in laundering rayon because some types are weaker when wet. If submitted to strain or rough handling they may break or stretch, and the garment may not regain its natural shape after it is dry.

So rayon dresses and undergarments should not be rubbed or scrubbed, twisted, or handled roughly. A good way to dry them is to roll them in a Turkish towel and knead out excess moisture, then spread them flat on a dry towel, much as one dries a knitted suit or sweater. Clothespins tend to tear wet rayon articles and should never be used on them. Often the garment can be simply hung over the line or over a hanger, provided it is not pulled down out of shape by its own weight when wet.

Synthetics or rayons made of cellulose acetate are easily scorched by hot irons, and it is safest to use medium heat in ironing all synthetics or to try to iron on a portion that does not show. Pressing on the wrong side safeguards against a shiny look.

Farmers' Bulletin 1497-F, "Methods and Equipment for Home Laundering" gives special directions for laundering different fabrics, including rayon. It also includes the washing of such household articles as blankets, curtains, and pillows. While the supply lasts this publication may be obtained free from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

